NIFA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: MN113

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Minnesota
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or Location of Position: Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
1333 Gortner Ave. , St. Paul, MN 55108
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice
Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)
Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:
- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☐ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area
Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)
Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:
- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☒ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)
Employer: University of Minnesota Position Title: Vet. Diagnostician
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.
- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☒ Other: Veterinary pathology

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Objectives:

1) Receive veterinary pathology residency training in lab based diagnostics, including disease surveillance, prevention / control and food animal herd management
2) Serve as a veterinary pathologist for the UMN VDL conducting diagnostic evaluations of animals submitted to the laboratory
3) Enhance the safety of the food animal supply in our state and nation by working cooperatively with other animal health agencies and organizations to solve disease concerns in food animal production
    a. partners include USDA's National Animal Health Laboratory Network, Minnesota's Board of Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Health, the UMN School of Public Health, and animal industry organizations such as Minnesota Pork Producers
    b. specific programs include prevention of human novel H1N1 transmission to swine herds, surveillance/control of chronic wasting disease, and management of bovine tuberculosis in wild deer populations
4) Receive training in ultrastructural pathology focusing on disease pathogens of domestic animals and wildlife, allowing rapid and accurate identification of potential disease outbreaks

As one of the busiest diagnostic laboratories in the country, the UMN VDL is uniquely suited to provide this training. From 2008-2009, the UMN VDL received 65,711 accessions for disease investigations which included over 7,000 production animal necropsies/general exams.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This program is designed as a three year residency program with broad exposure to food animal, companion animal, avian, laboratory animal and zoo/wildlife cases. Residents' responsibilities include performing necropsies, interpreting laboratory results, training veterinary students (including teaching gross pathology laboratories and training of fourth year students in diagnostic necropsy techniques), interpreting histological lesions, writing necropsy and histopathology reports, and communicating with veterinarians and animal producers. Residents also have the opportunity to work with officials in areas of public health, agriculture and natural resource management. Additionally, residents receive specialty training through a unique program located at Plum Island Animal Disease Center that provides them with the skills needed to diagnose foreign animal diseases. This increases their readiness to address new disease outbreaks quickly and efficiently. Importantly, the UMN VDL residency training program is highly regarded nationally. Evidence for this includes the fact that our program was the only one to be selected by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology for a residency exchange program. In addition, we recently received a substantial award from the American College of Veterinary Pathology/Society of Toxicologic Pathology to provide residency training to an individual in this area of pathology expertise.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

The high debt loads incurred during veterinary school, combined with the lower income levels achieved in careers in food animal diagnostic pathology compared with opportunities in industry, make recruitment of food animal pathologists increasingly challenging. Funding from the VMLRP program would provide an important incentive for recruiting individuals into residency programs in diagnostic food animal pathology. Very few individuals with this training are available for recruitment into diagnostic laboratory positions. We are extremely well situated to provide training in diagnostic food animal pathology for continued service to underserved areas.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

For years, the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and the American College of Veterinary Pathologists have recognized a shortage of Diagnostic Veterinary Pathologists, particularly in the food animal sector (Cockerell et al., *Veterinary Pathology*, 2009). These pathologists are at the forefront of disease surveillance and identification. Importantly, Minnesota's food animal industries are some of the largest in the nation. Minnesota is ranked #1 in turkey, #3 in swine, in the top ten in dairy production and is the 8th largest livestock producer overall in the US. Minnesota's economy is based in a large part on this agricultural industry (livestock is a $6 billion industry). Disease outbreaks in these areas could have a devastating effect not only on Minnesota's agricultural industry and economy, but potentially on a national and international scale as well, since Minnesota is the 7th largest agricultural exporting state in the US. The UMN VDL has a track record for training food animal pathologists working in areas of disease control and prevention on a state-wide and national scale. Funding from the VMLRP program will allow the UMN VDL to become even more competitive in recruiting veterinarians into underserved areas. If we do not continue to train food animal diagnostic pathologists, the negative impact on animal health and food safety could be substantial. At a relatively minor cost, the loan forgiveness program can help to ensure that food animal diagnosticians are available in adequate numbers to meet the current and future challenges in disease control and food safety.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

Not applicable at this time.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dr. William L. Hartmann

Title: State Veterinarian and Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health

Organization: Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Email: bill.hartmann@state.mn.us

Telephone Number: 651-201-6825
(Area code required)

OMB Information Collection Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013